

## Message Text

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13

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-04 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 AGR-05 SWF-01 IGA-01 L-01 /078 W

----- 101265

R 240349Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4362

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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PARIS PASS USDEL BANGLADESH CONSORTIUM MEETING

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, BG, LA, AS

SUBJ: ECONOMIC AID FOR BANGLADESH AND LAOS

REF: A. STATE 229000 (NOTAL B. STATE 229087 (NOTAL)

1. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS EMBOFF VISIT WITH GEOFF WHITE, AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AGENCY, RE BANGLADESH MEMORANDUM (REF A) AND POSSIBILITY ADDITIONAL AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE TO LAOS (REF B).

2. GOA HAD NOT COMMUNICATED WITH BDG RESPECTING MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY LATTER BUT APPEARS GENERALLY TO SHARE U.S. MISGIVINGS, ESPECIALLY RESPECTING FAILURE OF BDG MEMORANDUM TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS RAISED BY IBRD AND IMF.

3. WHITE STATED HE ONLY HANDLING BANGLADESH PROGRAM TEMPORARILY IN ABSENCE OF ADAA BANGLADESH EXPERT CURRENTLY IN PARIS FOR CONSORTIUM MEETING, ACCOMPANYING ADAA DIRECTOR JOHNSON. (WE ASSUME THIS MUST BE "THE MEETING" ALLUDED TO BUT NOT OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED IN PARA 2 REF (A)). WHITE STATED HIS UNDERSTANDING BRIEFING OF GOA DEL NOW IN PARIS RESEMBLED THRUST OF U.S. CONCERNS REF (A) AS OUTLINED BY EMBOFF. HE SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE U.S. DEL AT CURRENT PARIS MEETING DIRECTLY CONTACT GOA DEL ON THESE POINTS.

4. EMBOFF ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO CONVEY U.S. APPRECIATION FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL AUSTRALIAN AID TO LAOS PURSUANT PARA 3 REF (B). WHITE, WHO HAS DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAOS PROGRAM, VOLUNTEERED THAT ANY SUCH ADDITIONAL AID WOULD MORE NEARLY BE IN RANGE OF \$A500,000. HE COMMENTED THAT GOA CONSIDERATION THIS ADDITIONAL AID AT LEAST IN PART RELATED TO SPECIAL EFFORT FOR MSA'S. GOA OBJECTIVE WAS TO FIND FORM WITH IMMEDIATE IMPACT. THIS HAD LED TO CONSIDERATION OF COMMODITIES FROM SURROUNDING COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY RICE FROM THAILAND. WHITE ALSO MENTIONED THAT IN DISCUSSING WITH THAI OFFICIALS POSSIBILITY OF EXPORT LICENSES FOR THAI RICE TO LAOS, LATTER HAD POINTED OUT LAOS WAS NOW OR PROSPECTIVELY SHIPPING LAOTIAN RICE TO HONG KONG. WE GAINED IMPRESSION FROM CONVERSATION THAT WHITE EXPECTED THAT THIS WOULD PROVE AN EXPLAINABLE MINOR ANOMALY, RATHER THAN A PROBLEM.  
GREEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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